

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-02 HA-05 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 292304Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1849
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY ASAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, MILI, GT.8NU
SUBJECT: NICARAGUA REVERBERATIONS

1. SUMMARY: PAST FEW DAYS HAVE SEEN SEVERAL NICARAGUA-RELATED
TERRORIST INCIDENTS AND PROPAGANDA ACCUSING BOTH GUATEMALA
AND USG OF ASSISTING SOMOZA. END SUMMARY

2. EVENING SEPTEMBER 27 A TIME BOMB DETONATED OUTSIDE THE
LOCAL OFFICE OF LANICA AIRLINES (SOMOZA-OWNED) DAMAGING
NEIGHBORING STORES AND OFFICES IN DOWNTOWN SHOPPING ARCADE.
RSO, WHO EXAMINED SITE, BELIEVES DEVICE CONSISTED OF NO MORE
THAN TWO STICKS OF DYNAMITE. AREA IS NORMALLY ONE WHICH IS
FAIRLY HEAVILY GUARDED. EXPLOSION OCCURRED AT 11 P.M. THUS
FAR NO ONE HAS TAKEN CREDIT FOR INCIDENT.

3. NICARAGUAN SITUATION WAS ALSO PRESUMABLY THE INSPIRATION
FOR THROWING OF TWO MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AT BUILDING HOUSING THE
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PERMANENT COMMISSION OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN DEFENSE
COUNCIL (CONDECA). DEVICES DID NOT IGNITE BUT BUILDING
WAS THEN SPRAYED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPON FIRE FROM A
TRAILING CAR. THUS FAR NO ONE HAS TAKEN CREDIT FOR THIS
INCIDENT EITHER. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT PART OF THE
PUBLISHED EGP RATIONALE FOR THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION
OF NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR MENESES SEPTEMBER 16 WAS HIS

ALLEGED CONNECTION WITH CONDECA. (WE HAVE JUST LEARNED OF DEATH OF AMBASSADOR MENESES.)

4. OCCUPATION OF SWISS EMBASSY MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 29 APPARENTLY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE NICARAGUAN SITUATION. OCCUPIERS SAY THEY ARE WORKERS OF DURALITA (PARTLY-SWISS-OWNED MANUFACTURERS OF ASBESTOS CEMENT PRODUCTS) WHO HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN LABOR DISPUTE OF SEVERAL MONTHS' STANDING. AS A MID-AFTERNOON EMBASSY OFFICES WERE STILL UNDER CONTROL OF MASKED WORKERS ARMED WITH STEEL RODS.

5. INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN WAKE OF NOT SURPRISING ACCUSATIONS THAT GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT HAS GONE TO THE AIDS OF SOMOZA. MOST SPECIFIC SUCH ALLEGATION WE HAVE COME ACROSS CAME IN A PAID AD PUBLISHED BY THE LEFT-WING CAMPESINO UNITY COMMITTEE (CUC). IT ALLEGED THAT LANICA PLANES HAD PICKED UP GUATEMALAN TROOPS FROM THE PARACHUTE BATTALION AT SAN JOSE, IN SOUTHERN GUATEMALA, AN ACT SUPPOSEDLY WITNESSED BY THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF THE AREA. (THE GOG HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ISSUED ADAMANT PUBLIC DENIALS OF ANY TROOP ASSISTANCE TO SOMOZA, AND WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT THIS STORY IS TRUE.) SAME BROADSIDE CHARGES THAT CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLUSION WITH SOMOZA IS AT BEHEST OF "GRINGO WUMPERIALISTS." SAME CHARGE RECEIVING WIDE CIRCULATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS COME FROM THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF SAN CARLOS UNIVERSITY. IT ASSERTS THAT USG CONTINUES FURNISHING INDIRECT SUPPORT TO SOMOZA AGAINST THE FEAR THAT HIS FALL WOULD OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF A PROFOUND TRANSFORMATION OF NICARAGUAN SOCIETY. WHILE THESE FIRST TWO ORGANIZATIONS HAVE TIES TO THE MARXIST LEFT, AND TO THAT EXTENT THEIR POSITION IS INEVITABLE, EVEN THE LOCAL CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HAVE ACCUSED THE USG, IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, OF PERMITTING THE RECRUITMENT OF AMERICAN MERCENARIES AND CONTINUING THE FLOW OF ARMS TO SOMOZA.

6 EDITORIAL REACTION TO THE NICARAGUAN SITUATION HAS SUBSIDED, BUT INFORMED GUATEMALAN OPINION, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, CONTINUES TO RUN STRONGLY AGAINST SOMOZA'S CONTINUANCE IN POWER. ONE OF THE FEW EXCEPTIONS IS THE MLN. THAT PARTY RECENTLY DISPATCHED A TEAM OF CONGRESSMEN TO MANAGUA WHERE THEY REPORTEDLY CONVERSED WITH SOMOZA AND HAD A LOOK AROUND. ON THEIR RETURN THEY SAID THEY HAD SATISFIED THEMSELVES THAT, CONTRARY TO GUATEMALAN CACI PRESIDENT VILLAGRAN KRAMER'S SPECULATION (GUATEMALA15456), THERE WERE NO MLN MEMBERS FIGHTING

ALONG SIDE THESGN.
BOSTER

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